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Rope," off the coast of Portugal.—Dr. Pigeaux "believes that never, or quite accidentally and rarely, does the hare breed with the rabbit. The so-called Léporides are true rabbits, and not hybrids at all. The belief in the existence of such a hybrid was prevalent among the ancients."

Additional evidence has been obtained from the exploration of Kent's Cavern, Devonshire, that man was a contemporary with the mammoth, in the British Isles.—Messrs. Wistaw and Burk state that "falcons and hawks act as nature's police, and check the spread of disease and epidemics amongst birds, by killing off the weakly individuals of a covey."

Dr. Anton Dohrn, believes that all crustacea, insects, and arachnida, can be traced to a single parent form, which they each reproduce at one or the other period of development. This form is identical with the larva of *Cirrhipedes* (Barnacles); and he gives it the name of *Archizoëa*. But do insects pass through the form of a young barnacle? Without committing ourselves to Darwinian views, should we not rather look upon the *worm* as being the archetypal form of articulates, as they all assume this state in the course of development? Dohrn's *Archizoëa*, or articulate prototype, with better reason, we would suggest, takes on a worm-like form.—Mr. Wallace has published a most interesting paper "On the Relation between Sexual Differences of Color and Nidification in Birds."—"He runs over in detail the principal species of birds, having the female as beautiful and brilliant, or as conspicuous as the male. In cases where the female has this conspicuous appearance, the nest always conceals the female, and in cases where the female is of a dull color, the nest exposes a considerable portion of the sitting bird. When the male bird is less brilliant than the female, it is found that the male performs the duties of incubation. There thus seems to be a connection between the color of the different sexes of birds and the sitting over the eggs. There are some exceptions to this generalization, but they can be easily explained, for these are generally protective colors. Mr. Wallace considered that Darwin's principle of natural selection most aptly explained this connection of color and nests."

THE NATURALIST'S NOTE BOOK. London. January—October, 1867.

This journal culls from all departments of Natural History, forming a common-place-book of selections, and is a very entertaining monthly. Our contributors will be pleased to know that a dozen or more of articles from the AMERICAN NATURALIST appear in its pages with due credit.

Bee keepers will examine with interest Mr. J. Lowe's "Observa-

tions on Dzierzon's Theory of Reproduction in the Honey-bee," read to the London Entomological Society.

With a view to test the truth of the theory that "all eggs which come to maturity in the two ovaries of a queen-bee are only of one and the same type, which, when they are laid without coming in contact with the male semen, become developed into male bees; but, on the contrary, when they are fertilized by male semen, produce female bees," from which theory, if true, we might, in the words of Von Siebold, "expect beforehand that by the copulation of a unicolorous blackish-brown German and a reddish-brown Italian bee, the mixture of the two races would only be expressed in the hybrid females or workers, but not in the drones, which, as proceeding from unfertilized eggs, must remain purely German or purely Italian, according as the queen selected for the production of hybrids belonged to the German or Italian race," the writer set to work to obtain hybrids between *Apis mellifica* and *Apis Ligustica*, and also between *Apis mellifica* and *Apis fasciata*, and the result of his experiments was that Ligurian queen-bees fertilized by English drones, and Egyptian queen-bees fertilized by English drones, both produced drones which, as well as the workers, were hybrid in their characters, and bore unmistakable evidence of the influence of the male parent. From this the author drew the conclusion that the eggs of a queen-bee which has been fertilized by a drone of another race, whether they develop into drones or workers, are in some way affected by the act of fecundation, and that both sexes of the progeny partake of the paternal and maternal character or race; from which it followed that Dzierzon's was not the true theory of reproduction in the honey-bee. Specimens of the hybrids were exhibited to the meeting; and Mr. F. Smith (who did not consider *Apis Ligustica* to be specifically distinct from *Apis mellifica*), after an examination of the specimens, corroborated Mr. Lowe's statement that the hybrid drones distinctly showed characters peculiar to *Apis mellifica* in combination with the characters which distinguish *Apis Ligustica* and *A. fasciata* respectively.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

ZOOLOGY.

THE DODO.—Mr. George Clarke, of Mauritius, has discovered a large deposit of bones of the Dodo in the swamp known as the "Maraux Songes." By this now celebrated discovery the whole skeleton of the Dodo has been made known, excepting the end of its wing; whereas before the head and foot at Oxford, the skull at Copenhagen, the foot in London, and the beak at Prague, were all the specimens known of the bird.—*Quarterly Journal of Science, London.*

SINGULAR VARIETY OF THE FIELD SPARROW.—On the 12th of October, I shot a very singular variety of the Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Baird. It was precisely similar to the ordinary form of that bird, except that its tail was pure white; with the exception, however, of the second and third exterior feathers, which were of the usual color. So marked a variety in a bird that generally presents very slight variations in color is so remarkable, that I consider it worthy of especial notice.—T. MARTIN TRIPPE.